

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS  
University of Virginia, Academic Sponsor

**Voyage: Spring 2016**  
**Discipline: International Relations**  
**PLIR 3010-101: Theories of International Relations**  
**Division: Upper**  
**Faculty Name: Maria Luise Wagner**  
**Credit Hours: 3; Contact Hours: 38**  
**B-Day Schedule : 14.40-16.00**

Pre-requisites:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces explanations of historical and contemporary events in international relations. The class encourages students to think critically about topics such as the role of the state and non-state actors in international politics. We will first study the historical context of international relations from the emergence of the modern state system until present. The class will then introduce a number of contending perspectives—realist, liberal, radical, constructivist—that have been employed by various thinkers from Thucydides to Henry Kissinger to explain issues in international relations. We will pay special attention to the international political economy and the theory and practice of international development. Finally we will study the relationship between theory and policy in international relations.

Course Objectives:

- understand the historical context of international relations
- generate presentations and classroom discussions guided by study questions drawn from the readings and lectures
- introduce students in country case studies to topics in international relations of particular interest to destinations on the voyage
- apply acquired knowledge to critical observations in the ports of call.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: K. Mingst and I. Arreguin-Toft  
 TITLE: *Essentials of International Relations*  
 PUBLISHER: Norton  
 ISBN #:9780393921953  
 DATE/EDITION: 2014. 6<sup>th</sup> edition

AUTHOR: K. Mingst and J. Snyder  
 TITLE: *Essential Readings in World Politics*  
 PUBLISHER: Norton  
 ISBN #:9780393921960  
 DATE/EDITION: 2014, 5<sup>th</sup> edition

AUTHOR: H. Kissinger  
 TITLE: *World Order*  
 PUBLISHER: Penguin Press  
 ISBN #: 9781594206146  
 DATE/EDITION: 2014

AUTHOR: B. Emmot

TITLE: Rivals. How the Power Struggle between China, India and Japan will shape our Next Decade

PUBLISHER: Houghton Mifflin

ISBN #:9780156033626

DATE/EDITION: 2009

## OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

B1- January 8

Course Overview

Short, in-class, ungraded essay

B2 – January 10:

One world many theories

Read:

J. Mingst/Arreguin-Toft, 1-18, 74-105

J. Snyder, One World, Rival Theories in Mingst /Snyder, 1-11

Video: Theoretical Approaches to International Relations

Honolulu: January 12

B3- January 14:

The Historical Context of International Relations (1)

Read:

Mingst/Arreguin-Toft, 18-71

Video: Kenneth Waltz: Interview with History

B4 - January 16:

The Historical Context of International Relations (2)

Read:

H. Kissinger, World Order, 1-96

Video: Henry Kissinger on World Order

B5- January 18:

Realism

Read:

Mingst/Arreguin-Toft, 74-85

Thucydides, Melian Dialogue, in Mingst/Snyder, 11-12

J. Mearsheimer, Anarchy and the Struggle for Power, in Mingst/Snyder, 37-57

M. Doyle, Machiavelli: More Security through Republican Imperialism 103-05

M. Doyle, Hobbes: Natural conditions, international conditions 110-113

Hans Morgenthau, A Realist Theory of International Politics and Political Power. Mingst/ Snyder, 33-37

Video: John Mearsheimer on Structural Realism

Study Day: January 19

B6 - January 23:

Mid Term Exam

B7 - January 22:

## COUNTRY CASE STUDY: JAPAN

Read:

B. Emmot; 87-121

G. Curtis, Japan's Cautious Hawks

H. Kissinger, 172-192

Video:

Gerald Curtis on Japan under Abe

Council on Foreign Relations: Japan-China Relations: Three Things To Know

Yokohama: January 24-25

In Transit: January 26

Kobe: January 27-28

B8 - January 30

## COUNTRY CASE STUDY: CHINA

Read:

B. Emmot, 48-87

R. Schweller and X. Pu, After Unipolarity: China's Vision of International Order in an Era of US Decline in Mingst/Snyder, 127-153

Z. Brzezinski and J. Mearsheimer, Clash of the Titans

Kissinger, 212-233

Video: The Heat: Henry Kissinger on US-China Relations

Shanghai: January 31-February 1

In Transit: February 2-3

Hong Kong: 4-5

B9- February 7:

## COUNTRY CASE STUDY: VIETNAM

Read:

Kissinger, 296-302

C.v. Clausewitz, War as an Instrument of Policy in Mingst/Snyder, 396-400

J. Berman and S. Routh, Why the United States fought in Vietnam

Video:

Causes of the Vietnam War

Vietnam : A Television History: The Roots of War

Ho Chi Minh: February 8-12

B10 - February 14

Radicalism

Read:

Mingst/Arreguin-Toft, 92-94

K. Marx, The Communist Manifesto, 89-95

H. Cardoso, Dependency and Development in Latin America

Video: Political Theory: Karl Marx

Study Day: February 15

B11- February 16:

## COUNTRY CASE STUDY: BURMA

Read:

Xu, Understanding Myanmar

H. James, Myanmar's international relations strategy: the search for security

Kissinger, 172-180

Video:

They Call it Myanmar: Lifting the Curtain.

Yangon: February 17-21

B12 - February 23:

Liberalism

Read:

Mingst/Arreguin-Toft, 86-92

W. Wilson, The Fourteen Points; in Mingst/Snyder, 14-17

F. Fukuyama, The Future of History, in Mingst/Snyder, 23-30

Video: The League of Nations: Wilson's League of Peace

B13- February 25:

## COUNTRY CASE STUDY: INDIA

Read:

H. Kissinger, World Order, 192-208

B. Emmot, 121-157

T. Weber, Gandhian Philosophy, Conflict Resolution Theory and Practical Approaches to Negotiation

Video: Gandhi: The Road to Freedom

Cochin: February 27-March 3

B14 - March 5:

Constructivism

Read:

Mingst/Arreguin/Toft, 95-104

S. Huntington, Clash of Civilizations, in Mingst/Snyder, 256-263

Video: Samuel Huntington on the Clash of Civilization

Study Day: March 6

B15- March 8

## COUNTRY CASE STUDY: MAURITIUS

Read:

RD Kaplan, Center Stage for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Power Plays in the Indian Ocean.

US. Department of State, US Foreign Relations with Mauritius, Bureau of African Affairs. Fact Sheet, July 22, 2015

Video: R.D. Kaplan on China's Port Extensions in the Indian Ocean

March 9: FIELD LAB MAURITIUS

B16 - March 11:

The State in International Relations

Read:

Mingst/Arreguin-Toft, 132-176

Study Day: March 12

B17- March 13  
DUE DATE FIELD LAB PAPER.  
Please submit before class.

B17- March 13  
COUNTRY CASE STUDY: SOUTH AFRICA  
Read:  
J. Gibson, The Contribution of Truth to Reconciliation. Lessons from South Africa.  
Video:  
Between Joyce and Remembrance ( Bullfrog Films)

Cape Town: March 15-20

B18 - March 22:  
The International Political Economy  
Read:  
Mingst/Arreguin-Toft, 305-349  
J. Mearsheimer, The False Promise of International Institutions in Mingst/Snyder, 355-362

B19 - March 24:  
International Development  
Read:  
F. Cooper, International Development and the Social Sciences  
B. Zoellick, Why we still need the World Bank  
Video: The World Bank: Hear our Voices- the Poor on Poverty

B20 - March 26:  
Foreign Aid  
Read:  
S. Radelet, A Primer on Foreign Aid  
W. Easterly, Why Does'nt Aid Work?

Tema: March 27-28  
Takoradi: March 29-31

B21- April 2  
Transnational Issues  
Read:  
Mingst/Arreguin-Toft, 384-429  
M. Naim, The Five Wars of Globalization  
Video: The True Costs - Dr. Moises Naim

B22 - April 5:  
Theory and Policy in International relations  
Read:  
S.M. Walt, The relationship between theory and policy in international relations  
Video: S.M. Walt, Balancing American Power in the post 9/11 World

B23 - April 5  
Epilogue

Video:

Casablanca: April 7-11

Study Day: April 12

B Day Finals: April 14

Final Exam

April 16: Arrive in Southampton

#### FIELD WORK

Experiential course work on Semester at Sea is comprised of the required field lab led by your instructor and additional field assignments that span multiple ports.

#### FIELD LAB : POWER PLAYS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

1.The effects of extremist politics, climate change and population growth have contributed to instability in the region and have become major geopolitical challenges for the United States. The visit to the US embassy in Port Louis familiarizes students with the role the US in the Indian Ocean and with the significance of the relations between Mauritius and the United States.

2. The unique role of Mauritius as the gateway between Asia and Africa has contributed to its economic development. It was the top-ranked African country in the 2013 World Bank Ease of Doing Business Report. It was also ranked as Africa's most competitive economy in the World Economic Forum's report for 2014, having risen twenty places in six years. A visit to an International Aid Agency allows students to learn about the challenges and successes of the practice of international development.

3.Lectures, readings and discussions before arrival introduced students to topics in international relations relevant to the Indian Ocean and in particular to Mauritius and allow them to apply their theoretical knowledge to their observations of the reality on the ground in Port Louis.

Field lab attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field lab.

#### FIELD ASSIGNMENTS

Experiential course work on Semester at Sea is comprised of the required field lab and additional field assignments that span multiple ports.

Students are expected to write a 5-8-page paper on their observations during the field lab, refer to relevant readings, lectures and discussions in the classroom and to compare the foreign policy of Mauritius to one other destination on the voyage.

The paper is 20% of the final grade and needs to be submitted on March 13.

#### METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC

Class Participation 20%. Class attendance is mandatory. All students are expected to comment on the assigned readings.

Presentations: 20% At the beginning of the class, one or two students will submit a one page essay and do a 5-minute presentation on the readings.

Field Assignment: 20%

Mid Term Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

The grade for written work submitted late decreases by ONE grade per day.

## ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

F. Zakaria Culture is Destiny: A conversation with Lee Kwan Yew”

G.L. Curtis, Japan's Cautious Hawks

H. Cardoso, Dependency and Development in Latin America.

H. James, Myanmar's international relations strategy: the search for security; Contemporary Southeast Asia, 2004

J. Gibson, The Contribution of Truth to Reconciliation. Lessons from South Africa. Journal of Conflict Resolution. 2006.

K. Marx. The Communist Manifesto, (excerpts) M. Edelman et al, (eds) The Anthropology of Development, (2005)

M. Doyle, Hobbes: Natural conditions, international conditions, in M. Doyle, Ways of War and Peace, Norton 1997;

M. Doyle, Machiavelli: More Security through Republican Imperialism in War and Peace, pp. 103-5

M. Juergensmeyer, Terror in the Name of God: Current History. November 2001. Pg. 357-361

R. Zoellick, Why We Still Need The World Bank. Looking beyond Aid. Foreign Affairs, March/April 2012

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/162/27964.html>

S. Walt. The Relationship between Theory and Policy in International Relations. Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci., 2005 - annualreviews.org

T. Weber, Gandhian Philosophy, Conflict Resolution Theory and Practical Approaches to Negotiation, Journal of Peace Research. Vol 38. no. 4; 2001; 493-513

W. Easterly. Why doesn't Aid work?

<http://www.catounbound.org/2006/04/03/william-easterly/why-doesnt-aid-work/>

Z. Brzezinski and J. Mearsheimer, Clash of the Titans. Foreign Policy. January/February, 2005

B. Xu, Understanding Myanmar

S. Radelet, A Primer on Foreign Aid

L. Berman and S. Routh, Why the United States Fought in Vietnam

RD Kaplan , Center Stage for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Power Plays in the Indian Ocean. Foreign Affairs./ Vol 88 ( 2009)

US. Department of State, US Foreign Relations with Mauritius, Bureau of African Affairs. Fact Sheet, July 22, 2015

## Videos:

The World Bank, Hear our Voices- the Poor on Poverty

They Call it Myanmar: Lifting the Curtain.

Vietnam. A Television History. ( Roots of a War)

Between Joyce and Remembrance ( Bullfrog Films)

## HONOR CODE

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University's honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager's Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: "On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment." The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed "[signed]."